



A Safe Bike Lane Love Story

**Illinois Department of
Transportation**

2021.10

Let's discuss:

- + Who Bike Lane Uprising is
- + How we got started
- + How to spot bike lane obstructions
- + Data we collect
- + What we've accomplished
- + **Ways you can make biking safer**
- + Ways you can support Bike Lane Uprising

What is Bike Lane Uprising?

A crowdsourced civic-tech platform making it easy to **report bike lane obstructions** in one central database.



We've made local & national news:



The Washington Post



CITYLAB



CHICAGO SUN-TIMES



Chicago Tribune



STREETSBLOG



Bike Portland



BristolLive

**This is a
bike lane
obstruction.**



This is a
bike lane
obstruction.



This is a
bike lane
obstruction.



Only a small % of streets have designated space for biking

Bike lanes that do exist are being used as free
parking, extra **driving** lanes, illegal **construction**
sites, **distribution** centers & not being safely
maintained.



My close call

On June 13, 2016, I was almost run over by the driver of the truck in this photo. The incident happened as I was stopped in a bike lane, waiting for a red light to change.

The driver of the truck turned so sharply they not only drove into the bike lane I was in, but they actually drove onto the sidewalk to my right. As this happened, the truck began to pin me. I thought for sure I was going to go under the back wheels of the truck.

With both hands on the side of the truck, I kept trying to push myself, and the Divvy bike I was on, away from the back wheels of the truck. This was an incredibly close call but I managed to not go under. The truck continued to roll through the red light.

I anticipated the truck had not seen me. I thought I was probably in their blind spot and they didn't even know they had almost ran me over. More than anything, I wanted them to know what had happened so they would be more **careful**.



Virginia Murray, 25, Fatally Struck While Riding a Divvy Bike in Avondale

By John Greenfield | Jul 1, 2016 | 41



Virginia Murray, 25, was fatally struck by a truck driver this morning while riding a Divvy bike at Belmont Avenue and Sacramento Avenue in Avondale, according to police. The case appears to be the first fatal crash involving a bike-share user in the U.S.

At about 9:00 a.m. Murray and the driver of a 2001 Chevrolet flatbed truck were both



Virginia Murray

2 weeks later

About 2 weeks later the first bikeshare rider was killed in a similar situation. A commercial truck drove over that rider, just as the Windy City Distribution driver came close to doing to me. Not only was the situation similar but it was a female rider, also riding a Divvy and we were about the same age. **I very well could have been her.** While the driver of the truck probably long forgot about me, his actions stuck with me.

I began to learn just how fragmented and difficult it is to report drivers like him. I knew there were opportunities to make it easier to report and better use the data of incidents. I decided to do something about it. While many miles of bike lanes exist, they're often blocked by drivers, that use them as free parking. By creating a central database of bike lane obstructions we are able to highlight problem areas and trends surrounding bike lane violations. We work with local organizations, city departments, and companies directly in an effort to **prevent future bike lane obstructions.**



Bike lanes often look like

this:



**“I feel like
no one cares”**

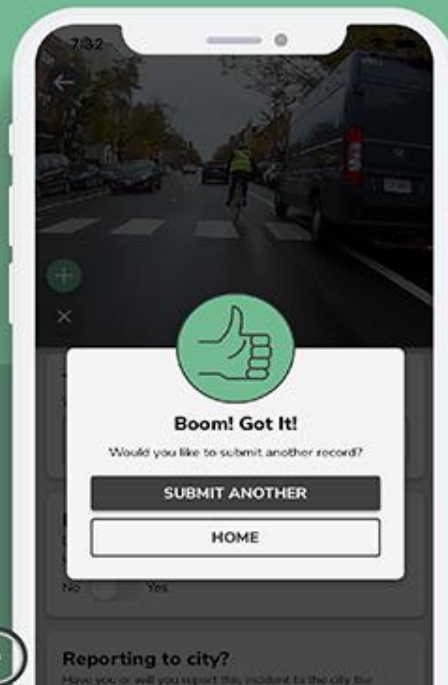




We love safe bike lanes

Report bike lane obstructions

Download the App



Join our Uprising



Help make cycling safer by reporting bike lane obstructions



We use submissions to find trends and hotspots



Report bike lane obstructions where they happen



**By better understanding
the problem of blocked bike
lanes, we can identify
unique solutions.**

We track & identify

We Collect

- + Quantitative data
- + Qualitative insights
- + Images
- + Dates
- + Times
- + Locations
- + License plate data

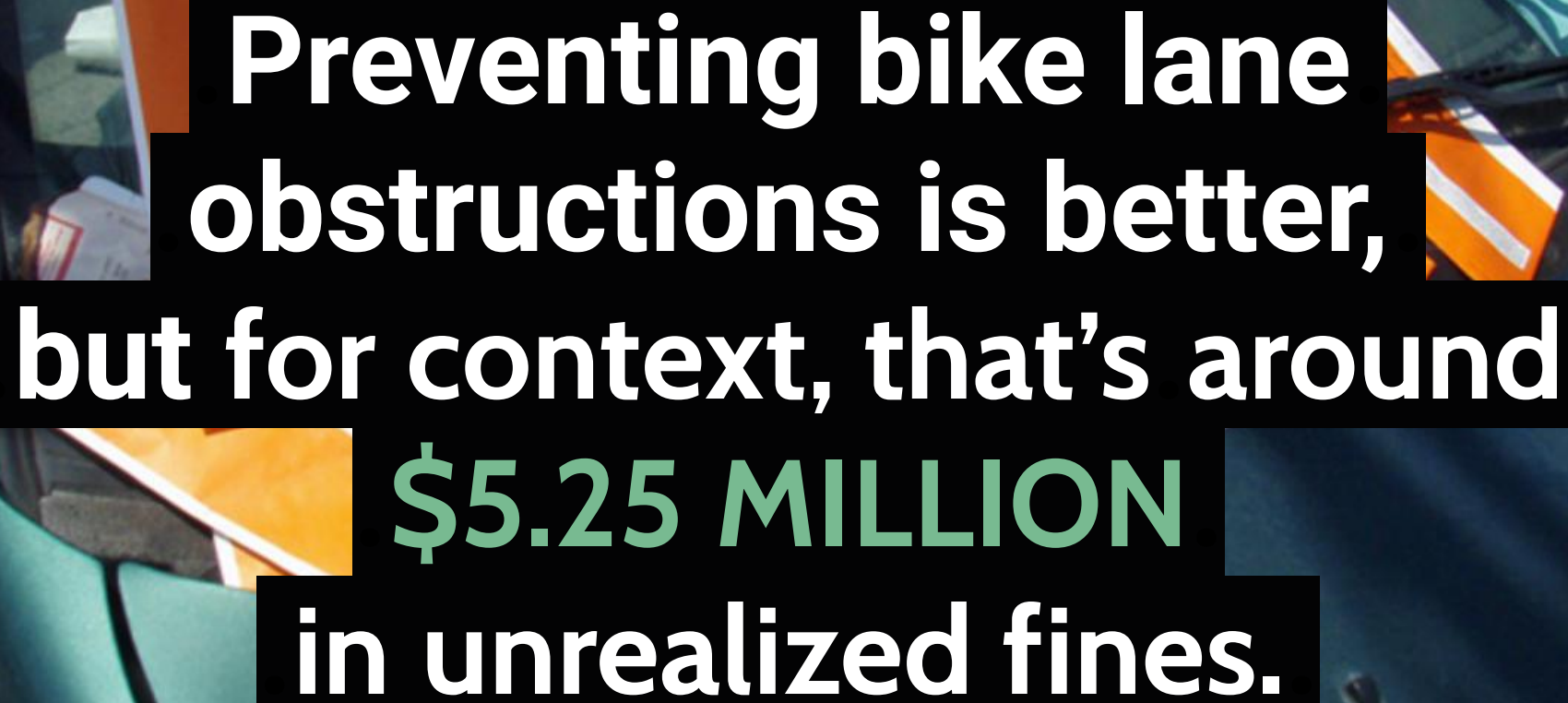
We Identify

- + Root causes
- + Problem locations
- + Repeat offenders
- + Design opportunities
- + Educational opportunities
- + Process opportunities



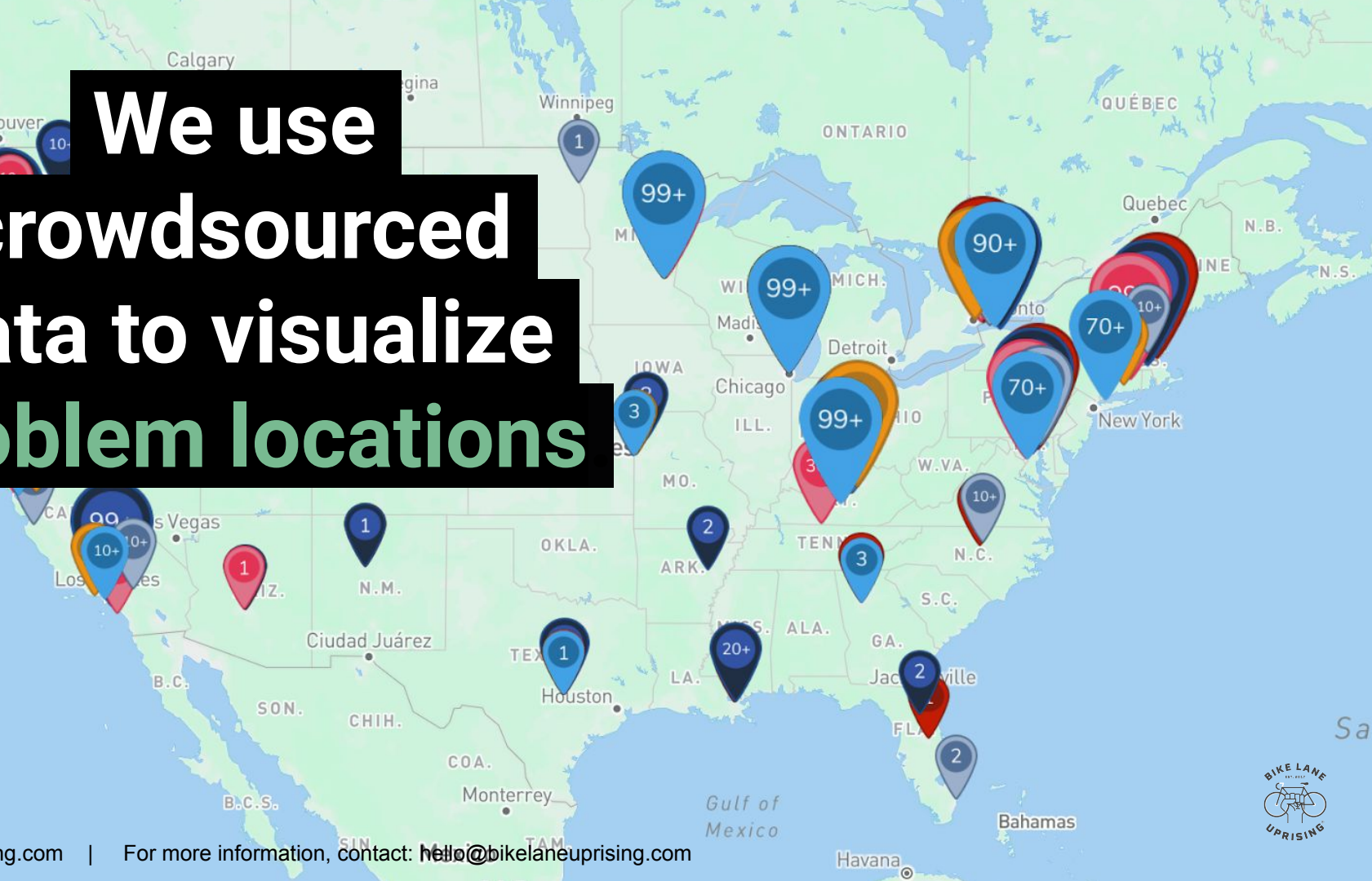


We've collected over
35,000 bike lane
obstructions



**Preventing bike lane
obstructions is better,
but for context, that's around
\$5.25 MILLION
in unrealized fines.**

**We use
crowdsourced
data to visualize
problem locations**



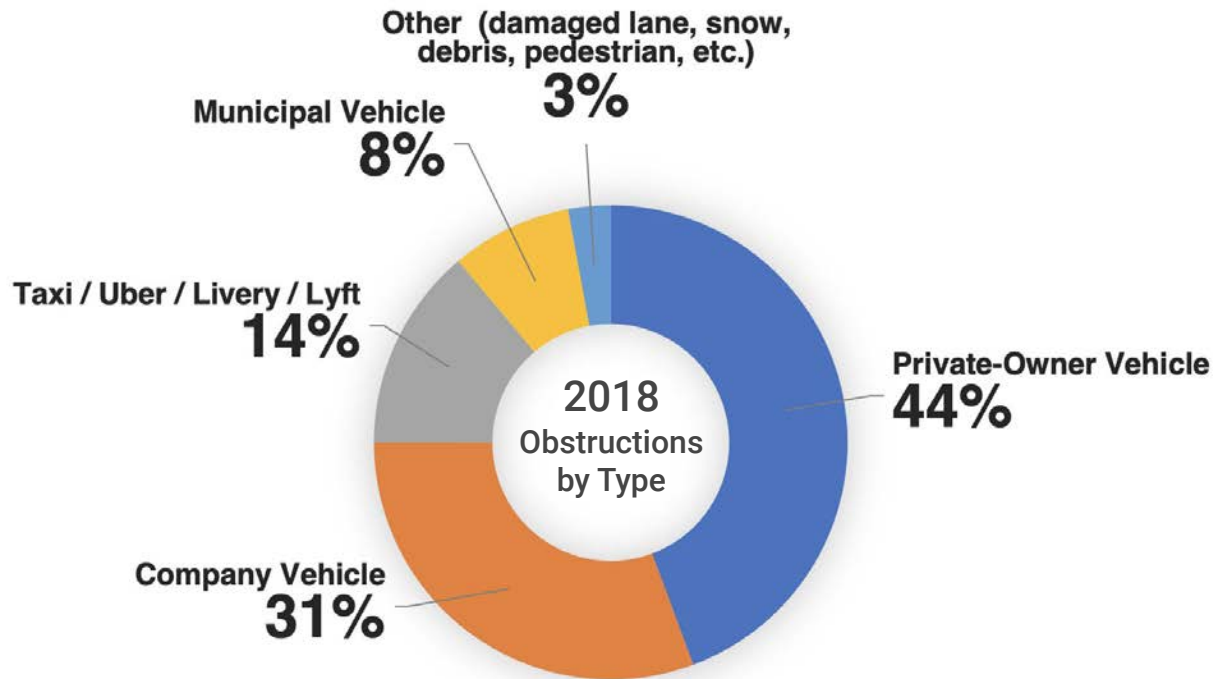
A heatmap overlay on a map of Chicago, where red and yellow colors indicate areas of high need for infrastructure, primarily concentrated in the city center and along major transit corridors. The map includes labels for various streets and neighborhoods.

**We can identify
where to focus
infrastructure
needs**

We identify **who** blocks bike lanes...

In 2018, 6,598 records were submitted to the Bike Lane Uprising database from 93 cities. **44% of submissions documented private-owner vehicles in bike lanes.**

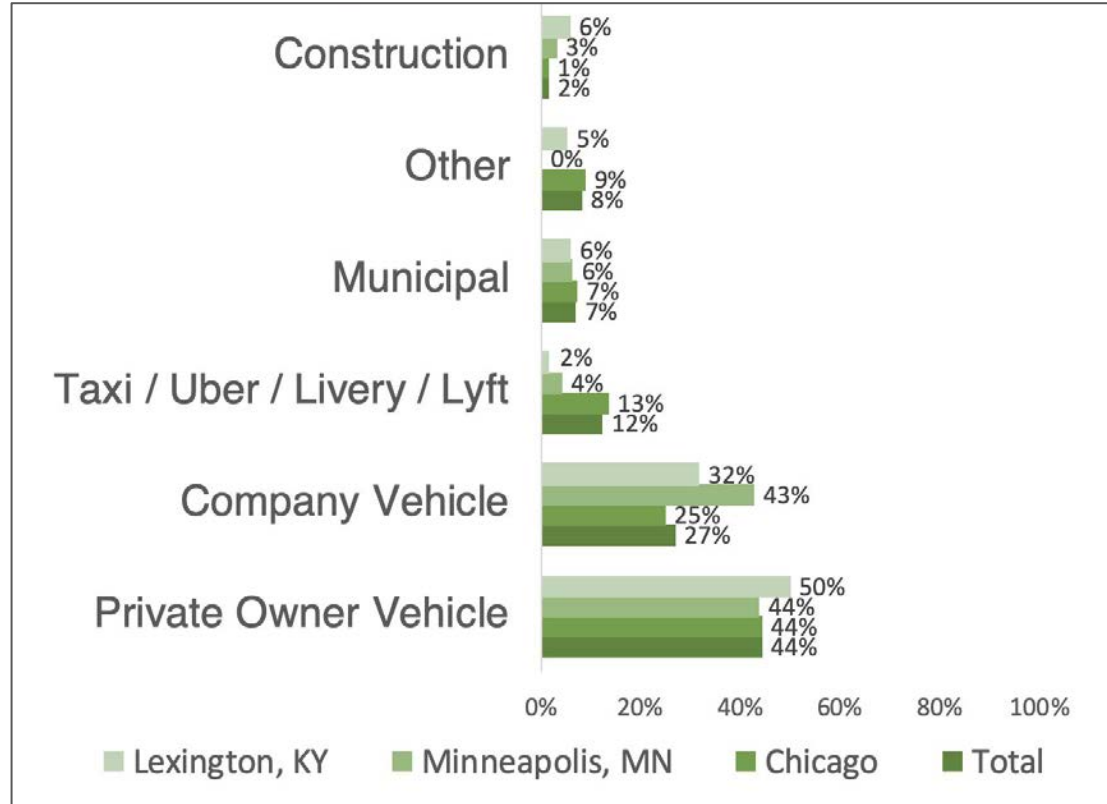
Based on 6,598 records
submitted to BikeLaneUprising.com
from 1/1/2018 - 12/31/2018



Identify **anomalies** between cities

16%

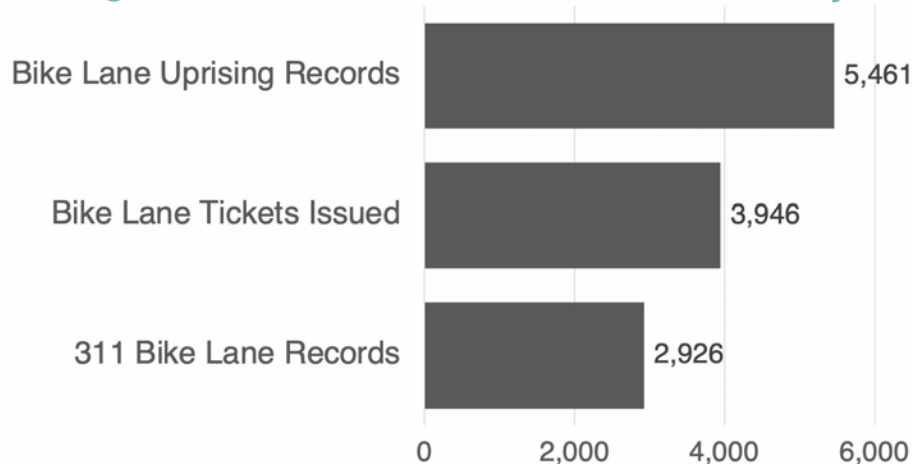
More “**Company**”
obstructions
reported in
Minneapolis



We outpaced the City of Chicago in our first year

In its first year of existence, **Bike Lane Uprising** outpaced 13,500 city workers with the authority to ticket bike lane obstructions. We also outperformed the city of Chicago's +\$35 MILLION 311 system.

2018 Chicago Bike Lane Obstructions Recorded by Source



Based on 5,461 Chicago records
submitted to BikeLaneUprising.com
from 1/1/2018 - 12/31/2018



We work with:

- + City Decision Makers
- + Office of the Inspector General
- + Department of Transportations
- + Dept of Finance
- + Ward Representatives
- + Transportation Providers
- + Companies
- + Bike Organizations
- + Community Groups



Bike Lane Uprising
@bikelaneuprise

[PROGRESS] Big shout out to @ChicagoDOT for setting up the meeting today between bikelaneuprising.com and the Department of Finance. Happy to have a seat at the table and looking forward to working together, to solve the problem of bike lane



Bike New York
@bikenewyork

App/site @bikelaneuprise has set up a database for bike shops to indicate hours & shop protocols during #COVID19.

Data set is mainly Chicago shops now, but the site is open to the world. Several Brooklyn shops are already in. Scroll down bikelaneuprising.com/bike-maintenan...

Name of Bike Shop	City	Is your shop open?	Business hours	Notes	Photos
Urban Adventure	Boston, MA	Open	Tues - Sun: 10am - 6pm	Urban Adventure has a full service bike shop. We	
King Long Brooklyn	Brooklyn, NY	Open	12-7 call ahead	We are operating at a limited service and sales cost...	
Sun And Air	Brooklyn, NY	Open	9-7	We are open for limited service and sales cost...	
North Brooklyn Cycles	Brooklyn, NY	Open	12-7 7 days a week	Great prices and deals on bikes, accessories and...	
McDonald's Cycle Center	Chicago, IL	Open	7:00 am - 7:00 pm Monday - Friday		
Boulevard Bikes	Chicago, IL	Open	MTWTFSS: 10-5, Thurs 10-8, Fri 10am-5pm	We will work with you, if you're considering...	
GoodSpeed Cycles	Chicago, IL	Open	Effective...		
Four Star Family Cycles	Chicago, IL	Appointment Only	Open on Saturdays		
The Recyclery	Chicago, IL	Appointment Only	Wed-Fri 10am-6pm		
Johnny Sprinkles	Chicago, IL	Open	10-7		
Chicagoand Bicycles	Chicago, IL	Open	10-5 Mon-Sat		

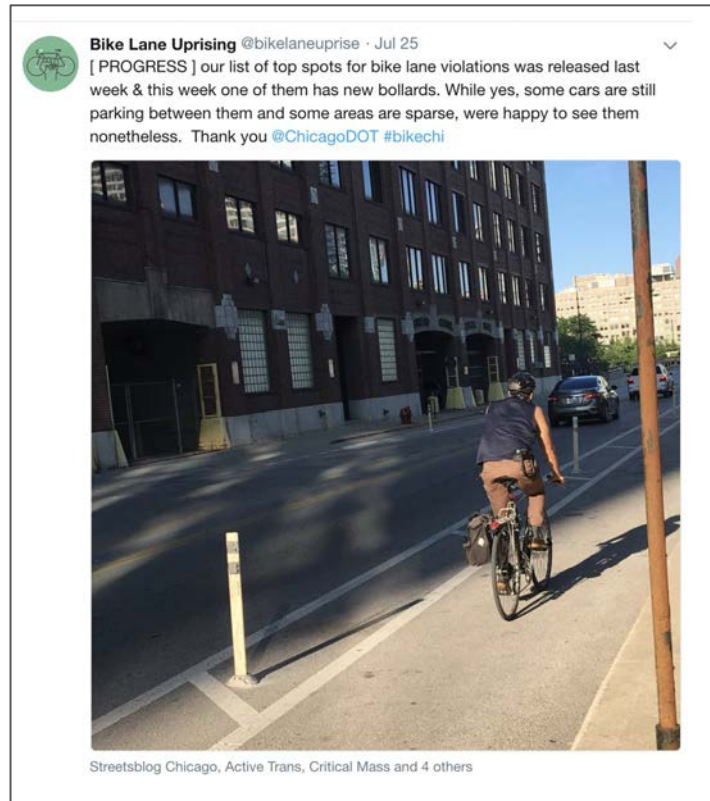
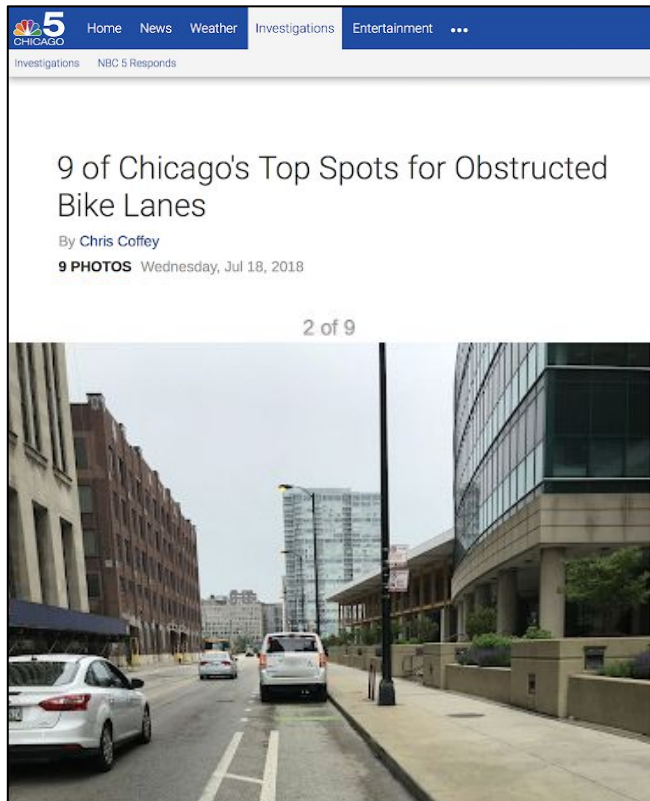
8:54 AM · Mar 24, 2020



Mayor Rahm Emanuel ✓
liked your Tweet



Our data leads to **infrastructure** enhancements:



Our data leads to law & policy enhancements:

Identified
loophole in a
law. Helped
pass a change
to that law

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Section 9-100-030 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by deleting the language stricken through and by inserting the language underscored, as follows:

9-100-030 Prima facie responsibility for violation and penalty – Parking, standing or compliance violation issuance and removal.

(Omitted text is unaffected by this ordinance)

(b) Whenever any vehicle exhibits a parking, standing or compliance violation, any police officer, traffic control aide, other designated member of the police department, parking enforcement aide or other person designated by the traffic compliance administrator observing such violation may issue a violation notice, as provided for in Section 9-100-040 and serve the notice on the owner of the vehicle by: (i) handing it the notice to the operator of the vehicle, if he the operator is present, or by (ii) affixing it the notice to the vehicle in a conspicuous place, or (iii) if the operator drives away in the vehicle before notice can be served in the manner prescribed in items (i) or (ii) of this subsection, mailing the notice to the address of the registered owner or lessee of the cited vehicle as recorded with the Secretary of State or the lessor of the motor vehicle within 30 days after the Secretary of State or the lessor of the motor vehicle notifies the City of the identity of the owner or lessee of the vehicle, but not later than 90 days after the date of the violation, except that in the case of a lessee of a motor vehicle, service of a parking, standing or compliance violation shall occur no later than 210 days after the date of the violation. The issuer of the notice shall specify on the notice his or her identification number, the particular ordinance allegedly violated, the make and state registration number of the cited vehicle, and the place, date, time and nature of the alleged violation, and shall certify the correctness of the specified information by signing his or her name as provided in Section 11-208.3 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, as amended.

(Omitted text is unaffected by this ordinance)

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take full force and effect upon its passage and approval.

Our data leads to **OIG 2021 investigation:**



5. BIKE LANE MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES:

- Does the City adequately enforce the prohibition on vehicles stopping or standing in bicycle lanes, including for the City's own vehicles?
- Does the City keep bike lanes free of other obstructions such as snow, water, and potholes?

RATIONALE:

OIG has received complaints about the number of vehicles that block bicycle lanes, including City vehicles, endangering cyclists. This audit will evaluate the City's enforcement of the prohibition on blocking bike lanes, as well as the City's efforts to keep lanes free of other obstructions.

Our data **uncovered critical flaws** with \$35M 311:



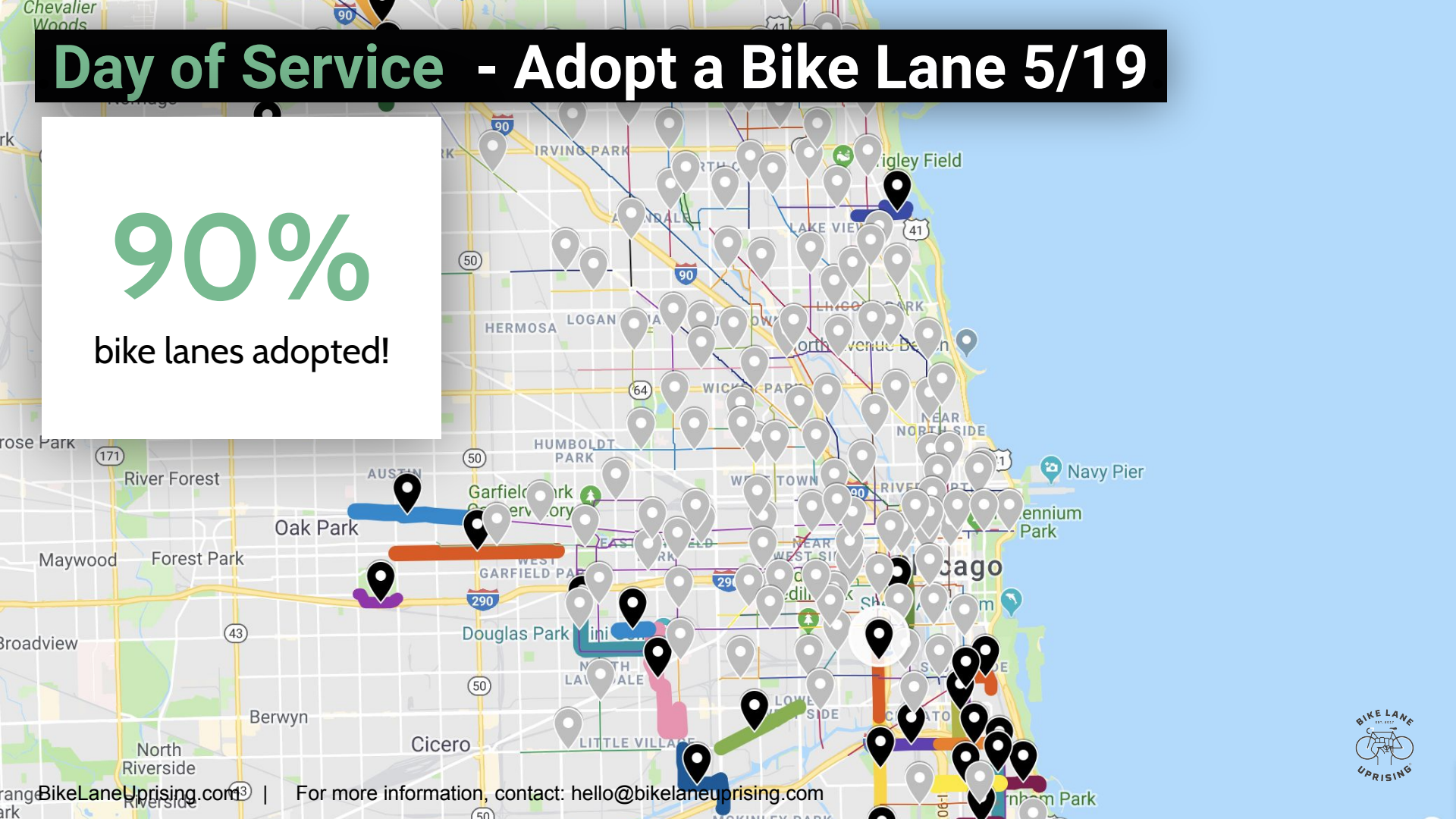
Our platform is a gateway for community engagement



Day of Service - Adopt a Bike Lane 5/19

90%

bike lanes adopted!



Over 2,000 Sets of USB Bike Lights Sponsored



DOMINIC
GWINN

How might IDOT make **biking** safer & approachable?

While the problem of blocked bike lanes can feel daunting, IDOT & affiliates can identify actionable opportunities to impact meaningful change.

How might IDOT make **biking safer & approachable?**

While the problem of blocked bike lanes can feel daunting, IDOT & affiliates can identify actionable opportunities to impact meaningful change.

We have a few suggestions...

Identify & develop for **ALL** your
customers (*not just those in cars*)



Don't stonewall bike lane improvements

After Kevin Clark Killed By Driver At Dangerous Logan Square Intersection, Cyclists Say It Needs To Be Fixed — Now

A transportation advocacy group flagged the intersection as dangerous years ago, but the city hasn't taken steps to make it safer. "How many cyclists need to be killed at that location?"



HELP cities connect their fragmented bike lane networks



dick simpson (preface by studs terkel)
@urbaniconoclastm

Tell them to make a bike lane the rest of the way on archer
or I'm doing it myself

11:26 AM · Sep 26, 2021

**Build
infrastructure
you would let
your own loved
ones bike on**



Lead safety by example with IDOT construction sites



Encourage IDOT staff & affiliates to experience ALL modes of transportation



Identifying repeat offenders

08/10/2018, 04:38pm

**Cyclist killed in West Loop was
mom of 2 who completed
100 triathlons**



Angela Park, seen here with her husband Eugene and two daughters, completed 100 triathlons. | Facebook

Angela Park

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

Riding north on Halsted, Park was crossing Madison when she was hit by the truck, which was making a right turn at 7:10 a.m. Thursday, police said. Park, 39, was pronounced dead after being taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The driver of the **Lakeshore Recycling** truck was ticketed, police said. Lakeshore Recycling did not respond to requests for comment.

17 LRS obstructions *that year*

Based on 12,00 submissions

Submitted before 6/20/2019



6244

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/19/2018 12:28pm

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



5820

DATE & TIME OF ...
10/27/2018 12:08pm

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



4829

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/14/2018 10:15am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



4650

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/10/2018 3:45pm

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



4510

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/19/2016 7:52am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



4222

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/31/2018 2:19pm

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



4187

DATE & TIME OF ...
9/4/2018 7:09am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



3902

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/27/2018 8:01am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



3762

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/23/2018 7:47am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



3624

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/17/2018 7:53am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



3592

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/1/2018 7:40am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



3410

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/1/2018 7:30am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



3326

DATE & TIME OF ...
8/15/2018 10:09am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



2405

DATE & TIME OF ...
7/15/2018 8:51am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



1465

DATE & TIME OF ...
5/5/2018 10:09am

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling



353

DATE & TIME OF ...
12/20/2017 12:12pm

TAG

LRS Lakeshore Recycling

Ways you can help:



Submit Obstructions

Submit bike lane obstructions & unsafe lane conditions directly to our database & maps.



Shop Our Store

Help support our work and spread the word about our mission by sporting our merch.



Support Our Work

Help propel our mission forward. Become a supporter today.



Become a Volunteer

Help work on projects that match your interests and availability. Remote volunteer options available.



Help Spread the Word

Looking for ways to help spread the word about our mission? This guide can help.

RECAP: of what we covered

- + Who Bike Lane Uprising is
- + How we got started
- + How to spot bike lane obstructions
- + Data we collect
- + What we've accomplished
- + **Ways you can make biking safer**
- + Ways you can support Bike Lane Uprising





Questions?



hello@BikeLaneUprising.com



BikeLaneUprising.com



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[@BikeLaneUprising](https://www.instagram.com/BikeLaneUprising)